



FARM NEWS

April 9, 1948

CHAIRMAN GIVES ACP CLOSING DATE: Farmers of _____ county are reminded that the closing date for signing up or enrolling, in the 1948 Agricultural Conservation Program is May 1, 1948.

The 1948 ACProgram carries about the same provisions for assistance in the way of financial aid, materials and services as last year except that the assistance to any one farmer is limited to \$500.

_____, chairman of the county agricultural conservation committee, explains that the ACProgram provides for a joint attack on erosion of the soil and waste of water. As he explains, "The Nation through the government cooperates with the farmers who operate the land in a program to conserve and protect that land so that it will keep on producing food and fiber."

By cooperating in the 1948 Agricultural Conservation Program, the chairman explains, each farmer will add his bit to the nationwide effort to conserve the Nation's most valuable natural resources -- soil and water.

"The farmer benefits in that his farm is in better shape to produce the crops upon which he must continue to depend for a living. In effect each farmer cooperating in the program is joining with his neighbors and with the people who live in town in a National program which strengthens the Nation's resources."

CONSERVATION CURES SHOULD FIT CASES: "What does my soil need most?" should be the question asked by each farmer in setting up a conservation program for 1948, says _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation committee.

The chairman points out that conservation of soil and water usually requires more than just a single practice. The use of such practices should be a means to an end and not an end in itself, he explains. In other words, the most important conservation need of the farm should be considered first and all practices carried out should be directed toward meeting that need.

He calls attention to advice given by A. J. "Al" Loveland, head of the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in which farmers and committeemen are urged to make the best possible use of every dollar spent for conservation under the ACProgram.

"With a reduced budget this year we are going to have to make every dollar do double duty if we anywhere near get the job done that has to be done to save our soil."

According to the chairman that means doing first the conservation work most urgently needed. There isn't enough to aid in doing all that should be done, so, "first things first."

Every effort must be made to fit the conservation practices to needs of the individual farm, he explains. Often a combination of practices is best. It may be that slopes must be seeded to grass and legumes. Phosphate may be needed to get a better growth of the grass and legumes. Contour farming may be necessary on some of the land. Other parts of the farm may need drainage. "The needs of the farm should be the guide," says the chairman.

PEOPLE STARVE WHEN SOIL IS LOST: What happens when erosion and depletion ruin the cropland of a county was vividly shown in a copy of a letter from the American Mission in Greece recently received by J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the State Committee, Production and Marketing Administration.

Following is a quotation from the letter written by B. V. Vance, former Chairman of the Texas State Committee:

"People are dying here because of the failure of the past generations to protect the soil. Mountain sides with six to ten feet of fertile soil a century ago are completely barren. All the soil is gone and no vegetation is growing on the rocks. Men and women are walking as far as five miles up on the side of the mountain to get a little patch of land, in many cases not over 1/16 of an acre, on which to grow a little food. Good soil is scarce in this part of the world. It is estimated that the potential agricultural productive capacity of Greece has been cut in half during the past few centuries because of erosion.

"I am wondering if our posterity is going to suffer for lack of food, clothes, fuel and shelter because of our neglect. We Americans have a grand opportunity. We have the experience of many centuries. We know what erosion will do to a Nation and we have the technical skill never possessed by mankind before this century. We should have a realization that new lands have all been exploited. We have a golden opportunity to protect our soil, water and other natural resources, but along with this opportunity goes a tremendous responsibility -- a responsibility that we must not shirk. We must protect our agricultural resources at all cost."

WINDBREAKS HAVE HIGH VALUE: Trees and brush provide paying protection for livestock says Chairman of the (County) Agricultural Conservation Committee. Figures from both Montana and South Dakota show the dollars-and-cents value of such protection.

In Montana, the chairman states, the gains of beef cows sheltered in brush were compared with those sheltered in sheds. The comparisons were made for one mild and one severe winter. During the mild winter the cows sheltered in the brush gained nearly 35 pounds more per head than those in the shed. In the severe winter the cows in the brush lost about 10 pounds less per head than those sheltered in the sheds. The cattle in both trials had essentially the same feed.

South Dakota farmers value their windbreaks at around \$500 a year, a survey of 300 farms indicates. The value of the protection for livestock is placed at more than \$350 a year.

Livestock protection is a byproduct of tree planting under the Agricultural Conservation Program, the chairman explains. In all 36 States where tree planting is included as an ACP practice, the primary purpose is to conserve soil and water.



FARM NEWS

April 23, 1948

ANDERSON RECOMMENDS PRICE SUPPORT CHANGES: Authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to support the prices of agricultural commodities generally through loans, purchases, payments, and other operations was among the recommendations recently made to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson.

The Secretary's testimony on a proposed long-range farm program including these other points also suggested that mandatory price-support activities be made mandatory only for non-perishable commodities for which the law provides mechanisms for keeping supplies in line with demands, that no supports be available when farmers vote down quotas in a referendum, and that the Secretary should be authorized to provide price supports for any commodity at whatever level might be deemed desirable in cases where, in the public interest, it became necessary to obtain increased production.

With respect to the price-support level for mandatory commodities, Secretary Anderson's suggestions were as follows:

1. That mandatory supports be provided at not less than 60 percent of parity, but that the Secretary be permitted to set supports for the basic commodities at a level up to 90 percent of parity.
2. That price supports to cooperators be no less than 75 percent of parity in those years when marketing quotas were actually in effect.

In line with previous recommendations to the Congress, the Secretary again recommended that the "parity" formula should be modernized, to reflect recent historical price relationships among commodities and to include the cost of "hired" labor in calculating the parity index.

FARMERS URGED TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON CONSERVATION PLANS: It's not the planning but the actual carrying out of practices that gets the conservation job done, _____, chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee, reminded farmers this week. He said that now that most farmers have made their plans for the season it's time to start putting the plans into practices.

He pointed out that every year there are some excellent conservation plans made that would save millions of tons of soil and thousands of acres of cropland, but for one reason or another the plans are not carried out and the land loses top soil and fertility. With an increasing population and a limited cropland we can't maintain our present standard of living and continue this loss.

Everything that every farmer can do — with or without assistance of the Agricultural Conservation Program or other conservation programs — will not be too much. Although people in the United States are eating better now than they have in the

past, it is not impossible that we may be at the turning point where production cannot keep up with population increases.

Certainly we are speeding up the day when we will come to that turning point if we allow our land to get away from us, the county chairman said. Every farmer has a responsibility to the country to do his part in saving our soil. Because this problem is so serious, the Agricultural Conservation Program has been provided to help farmers get this job done. Farmers using this assistance are cooperating in a national fight to save the land and to keep our soil producing the abundance needed to keep the nation well fed.

That's why it's so important that farmers who have made farm plans for carrying out conservation practices to follow through on those plans and actually carry out the conservation practices.

PRICE SUPPORTS STABILIZE FARMER'S MARKET: Farm price supports are intended to stabilize the farmer's market, not "hike" it, _____, Chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee, said today, in commenting on the recent announcement of Government price supports for hogs during the next 6 months.

"Many consumers jump to the conclusion that support programs are keeping prices at current high levels," the Chairman said. "Actually, the programs are not being used for most products, because the market prices are way above supports. Price supports become effective only when prices fall so low that the farmer can't afford to keep on producing the crop."

Prices for hogs are considerably above parity, and they aren't expected to fall to support levels this year. However, the law requires that hog price supports be available through 1948 at 90 percent of parity, for use if needed. Parity for hog prices on March 15 was \$18 per 100 pounds; prices received by farmers on that date averaged \$21.80.

For the next 6 months, hog supports will range from a low weekly average of \$16.50 per 100 pounds, Chicago basis, in May (when marketings are seasonally the largest of the spring or summer), to a high of \$18.50 in September (when marketings are seasonally the smallest of the year).

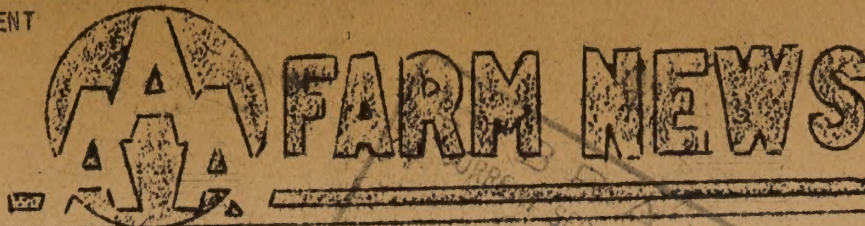
INCREASE PRODUCTION BY DRAINAGE: How farmers are increasing production by draining off excess water is illustrated by the T. W.

Humphries farm near Monroe, La.

Humphries put surface drains on his farm. The Soil Conservation Service laid out the drains. The Agricultural Conservation Program assisted him with about one-half of the out-of-pocket costs of \$5 an acre.

In 1946 the yield of cotton on the drained land was 117 pounds of lint cotton per acre. That year the rainfall from April to August amounted to over 24 inches. Humphries said he believed his cotton crop would have failed completely without the drains.

Drainage is an approved ACP practice in the State of North Dakota. Farmers can get information on what assistance is available from their county Agricultural Conservation Committee.



April 30, 1948

FARM MACHINERY PRODUCTION CONTINUES HIGH: United States farmers bought more farm machinery in 1947 than in any previous year, according to a recent U. S. Department of Agriculture report. Production prospects for 1948 indicate a still greater supply available for the domestic market despite the expected increase in European shipments.

Continued increase in the production of small wheel tractors and equipment used with such tractors is in prospect for 1948. Production of dairy and poultry equipment, feed cutters and horse drawn equipment has been high and may decline but it is expected that production will be adequate to meet requirements.

Incomplete reports on 1947 production indicate a total production of farm machines about one-third higher than in 1946 and about double the 1935-39 average. Wheel tractor production reached 420,000 units as compared with 255,000 in 1946 and the previous high mark of 313,000 in 1941.

Farm machinery exports in 1947 also were at a high level, accounting for about 18 percent of the total production, including industrial tractors. Exports included 80,000 wheel tractors, 15,000 garden tractors and 12,000 crawlers. About two-thirds of the crawlers were for non-farm use. Total U. S. production included 420,000 wheel, 166,000 garden and 38,000 crawler type tractors.

Prospects for 1948 indicate an increase in exports to European countries over 1947 while exports to non-European countries may remain about the same. The domestic and foreign demand for crawler tractors and large wheel diesel type or those adapted to heavy fuel is expected to remain strong and the supply situation "relatively tight."

BANKERS SEE VALUE OF CONSERVATION: A farm that is losing its topsoil through erosion offers little security for a loan — at least a long-time loan, says _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee. He comes to this conclusion from the interest bankers over the country are taking in conservation.

As an illustration, the chairman refers to a Kansas banker who won't make a loan on a farm unless the farmer is carrying out the needed conservation practices. He feels that he has no right to risk money on land that is being washed or blown away.

Mr. _____ said that this trend is a recognition on the part of bankers that the size of a farm doesn't always determine how much can be produced. It is a part of the growing realization that production depends on the quality and the depth of the topsoil that covers the farm — that when that topsoil is gone the farm is gone even though all the acres are still there.

The kind of farming that removes soil fertility without putting it back or that speeds up erosion, also takes away the security of the land. The farmer's living

and the banker's security depend upon what the land produces and will continue to produce. That's why, says the chairman, bankers look into the kind of farming as well as the kind of farm. They realize that the land that is safe and dependable for a loan must be farmed the conservation way.

The major functions of the Agricultural Conservation Program, he points out, is to help farmers make their farms more secure. The assistance given under the Program is to help farmers hold the topsoil on their farms and to keep that topsoil productive.

(Suggestion: This story can be greatly improved if a local banker could be quoted instead of the ACP Committee Chairman. Or both could be quoted. You might see your banker about this and then revise the story to fit local conditions.)

SOME PLANTS TAKE OVER CROPLAND: Not all cropland and pasture that is lost is blown away or washed down the river, says J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota PMA committee. When land is taken over by useless plants which prevent the growth of useful plants, it is lost as far as production is concerned -- lost until it can be brought back into the production of useful plants.

This explains, says the chairman, why some conservation practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program are for the eradication and control of noxious weeds and competitive plants.

A good example of conserving soil and putting it back into production is the case of F. W. Pulliam, a small rancher in Texas. Mesquite eradication was carried out on 87 acres of a 265-acre pasture on Mr. Pulliam's ranch. This particular pasture had carried one animal unit for each 20 acres. During 1947, after the mesquite was eradicated, the pasture carried 65 head of cattle for 7 months.

The mesquite was killed with kerosene in the spring of 1946 and cattle were kept off this range throughout the year. In 1947 a good stand of grass had replaced the mesquite and grazing was resumed.

FLAXSEED SUPPORT METHODS SET: Loans and contracts with processors will be used in all flax producing states, and in addition purchases will be made in Arizona, California and Texas, if necessary, in supporting farm prices for the 1948 crop of flaxseed, the Department of Agriculture has announced.

Warehouse and farm storage loans to producers will be made at \$6.00 per bushel, Minneapolis basis, for No. 1 flaxseed, and 5 cents per bushel less for No. 2. Closing dates for loans are October 31, 1948 for growers in the early States of Arizona, California, and Texas, and December 31 for other States.

If necessary to assure producers support prices, purchases will be made from growers in the three early States through October 31. Contracts for the purchase of flaxseed and linseed oil will be offered processors who agree to pay growers not less than the applicable support price for flaxseed.

If farmers actually plant the 4,401,000 acres reported as "intended" and yields are at the 1942-46 average level, about 37.5 million bushels of flaxseed would be produced. Last year, 4,157,000 acres were planted and 39.8 million bushels produced.

USDA SPONSORS HOME FOOD SURVEY: Farmers should have a more exact idea of what and how much food city consumers will use when results of a national survey of home food consumption become available. The study should also prove useful in developing programs to expand the consumption and improve the nutrition of consumers.

As one of the research projects being carried out under the Federal Research and Marketing Act, the survey is being started by the Department of Agriculture in 70 cities throughout the country. Williston, North Dakota has been selected as one of the cities, in which a cross-section of families will be visited.

This is the first survey on a nationwide scale since 1942, and it will show what has happened to the diets of city families in the last 6 years.

Always adapt our suggested releases to fit the situation in your county, eliminate those not particularly of interest to farmers in your area, and local items of interest.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

May 7, 1948

SIGNS OF SOIL LOSSES: It doesn't take a Hawkshaw, Sherlock Holmes, or Philo Vance to see the signs of a farm that is getting away from you, says _____, chairman of the _____ county agricultural conservation committee. This spring, for instance, many farmers over the country noticed little gullies where there hadn't been gullies before. These are definitely tracks of land that has "left home."

During the war years and since, the county chairman said, our land has been "taking a beating." We've had to keep turning it over and over to grow the food, oil, and fiber crops needed for the war and for the huge demands since the war. Prices have been relatively good and we've been trying to take all we could from our farms. The little gullies indicate we may have taken too much.

We've had some of our land in row crops longer than is safe if we want to hold our soil. The humus and decaying plant materials are being worked out of the soil; the soil's structure is breaking down. It's like having the cement work out from between the bricks of a house. When there's nothing to hold the bricks together it doesn't take much to push the wall over. The house crumbles.

When the soil loses its "stick-together-ness," wind and water easily tear it apart and wash or blow it away. The roots of plants such as alfalfa, clovers, and grasses have been worked out of the land through heavy cropping. The little gullies are just an indication that we've had the land too long out of a protective crop.

Shorter rotations, more crops that protect and hold the soil, and more of the other practices that make up conservation farming, were advised by the county chairman. He said that the Agricultural Conservation Program was set up to help farmers conserve their soil -- not to keep it out of production but to keep it producing both now and in the future.

PHOSPHATE IMPROVES TONNAGE, PROTEIN AND MINERAL CONTENT OF ALFALFA: Phosphate increases the amount per acre as well as improves the quality of alfalfa grown in Minnesota.

A survey was taken of the alfalfa hay grown on 69 farms in the Western half of the State.

From the analyses of the hay, the experiment station concluded that each of these farms produced 28 tons more alfalfa because of phosphate applications, and that this increased tonnage provided livestock with over 11,000 pounds more protein. That amount of protein is the equivalent of more than 15 tons of linseed meal. Besides, there was an increase in the amount of phosphate in the hay equivalent to nearly 1,600 pounds of bonemeal.

Farmers reported symptoms of phosphorus hunger in their cattle at the beginning of the phosphate-fertilization study. All operators were giving their animals mineral

feeds. As the fields were fertilized with superphosphate, phosphate deficiency symptoms disappeared, and the amount of minerals eaten by cattle decreased.

GRAIN EXPORT SIGHTS RAISED: Grain exports this marketing year will probably total around 577 million bushels, the President's Cabinet Food Committee has announced. This would include about 482 million bushels of wheat and flour and about 95 million bushels of coarse grains. The original estimate, last September, was for U. S. exports of about 470 million bushels of grain during 1947-48.

The decision to increase the year's grain export goal was reached after study of the reports on U. S. grain stocks, the needs of foreign claimants, and the facilities for handling and shipping the increased volume. The proposed exports are expected to leave a June 30 carry-over above the 150 million bushel minimum which is now required by legislation.

Despite near-record disappearance since last harvest, stocks of wheat in all storage positions on April 1 amounted to nearly 478 million bushels, 55 percent larger than a year ago. As computed from the supply of 1,449 million bushels on July 1, 1947, disappearance since then has amounted to 971 million bushels of wheat. Rye stocks of more than 8 million bushels were relatively small, but larger than on the same date of the last 2 years.

Total stocks of feed grains on April 1 are reported as follows: Corn, 889 million bushels, a third smaller than a year earlier and all but 40 million stored on farms; oats, 437 million bushels, the smallest in 6 years of record; barley, 115 million bushels, larger than the past 2 years but smaller than in 1943, 1944, or 1945.

CONSERVATION ON TWO-THIRDS OF U. S. CROPLAND: Although not nearly enough conservation work is being done to check the erosion and depletion that is cutting into the Nation's limited acreage of farmland, almost 308 million acres, or 66.1 percent of the total cropland in the United States and Island Possessions, was on farms which were in the 1946 Agricultural Conservation Program.

_____, chairman of the _____ county agricultural conservation committee, says that a report covering the activities of the 1946 Agricultural Conservation Program, recently released by the United States Department of Agriculture, shows that 2,851,442 farms were in the 1946 program. Assistance in carrying out conservation practices went to 3,205,131 farmers. The total of this assistance was \$267,555,000, which was about \$83.48 average per farmer.

Mr. _____ pointed out that this \$83.48 was matched generally by the farmer, because program assistance given farmers amounts to about half the cost of the practices carried out. Encouraged by the financial aid offered under ACP, many farmers also carry out conservation practices for which no financial aid is received.

Even though not enough, conservation measures being completed are helping to hold the soil and assure the Nation of continued production of food and fiber.

CONSERVATION COSTS MONEY LABOR AND MATERIAL: "No matter how you figure," says _____, chairman of the _____ county agricultural conservation committee, "conservation costs something. And it will cost a lot more if we let things go now instead of taking care of our erosion problems before they get worse."

He points out that there is no such thing as "free" conservation. The real question is one of getting the most conservation for each dollar spent — of getting the job done.

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DEPARTMENT OF

May 21, 1948

GROWER RESPONSIBILITY UNDER THE 1948 POTATO PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM: Mr. _____,
Chairman of the

County Agricultural Conservation Committee urges all potato producers, who wish to take advantage of the 1948 potato price support program, to be sure they are familiar with their responsibilities, as potato producers, which are set forth in the producer's application for certificate of eligibility.

Basic conditions of eligibility in the 1948 program are similar to those of 1947 with one important addition. They include: (1) compliance with 1948 individual farm potato acreage goals; (2) a new provision denying eligibility to growers who at any time during the season sell (except for officially certified seed potatoes): (a) ungraded or field run potatoes except to the Department of Agriculture or to dealers under contract with the Department, (b) potatoes of U.S. No. 1 Size B, or U.S. No. 2 grade or quality, regardless of size, except to the Department or contracting dealers, or with the prior approval of the Department, to processors, livestock feeders, or for export or (c) cull potatoes (those below U. S. No. 1 grade or quality, Size B, or U.S. No. 2 grade or quality, 1-7/8 inches minimum diameter) except to contracting dealers, or, with the prior approval of the Department, to processors, livestock feeders, or for export; and (3) payment of a service fee in connection with establishment of eligibility. In addition, growers may be required to enter into written agreements with the Department, covering the three fore-going requirements and other matters such as limiting by appropriate time periods the quantity of potatoes offered to the Department.

There are eligibility requirements for potatoes as well as for persons. Briefly, all potatoes produced by eligible growers will be eligible for price support except: (1) potatoes failing to meet at least the quality requirements of U.S. No. 2 grade or quality, 1-7/8 inches minimum diameter or of U.S. No. 1 grade or quality, Size B; (2) Potatoes damaged or affected by disease, insects, frost, or other injury to an extent rendering them unfit for normal consumption or unable to withstand normal shipment or storage, regardless of whether they meet U.S. grade requirements; (3) potatoes whose distribution is restricted or limited by State or Federal quarantine regulations; and (4) potatoes found objectionable because of odor, flavor, internal discoloration, or other visible damage, whether or not this damage is apparent at time of shipment or subject to determination by customary shipping point inspection procedure.

Chairman _____ advises all potato producers, interested in obtaining 1948 support prices on their potatoes, to call at the County Agricultural Conservation Office located at _____ if they do not thoroughly understand their responsibilities, as growers, under the 1948 potato price support program.

FALL PIG GOAL: The Department of Agriculture has recommended, and the State USDA Council has accepted a goal of 17,000 sows to farrow in North Dakota in the fall of 1948. Farmers are urged to increase their fall pig crop. The prospect is for smaller numbers of cattle on farms and ranches, and, therefore, less beef on the market for the next couple years. This should mean a good market for hogs next year.

ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION: Indications are that, for the Nation as a whole, there is an adequate supply of alfalfa seed to meet requirements. Most of the carryover of alfalfa seed, however, is from the Southern areas, and the production of Northern grown alfalfa seed has been far below the goal for each of the past three years.

There is no price support program for the 1948 crop of alfalfa seed, but with the short carryover of Northern grown seed, it appears that producers in this area can be assured of a fair return for production. Mr. J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the State PMA Committee, urges that producers comply with the goals established in individual counties, in order to increase the supply of adapted seed for this area.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE WELL RUNS DRY: After the topsoil is gone is too late to begin thinking about saving the soil, says _____, chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee. He points out that waiting for crop yields to drop and gullies to appear before carrying out conservation practices to conserve soil and water is about like calling the fire department after the house has burned to the ground.

Some land has not been seriously damaged by erosion or depletion, but now is the time to keep it that way. Keep yields high, and the land will help to bear the expense of keeping up the fertility. But let the topsoil get away and with it the soil fertility, and the expense of rebuilding is expensive and the damaged land is not in condition to help bear the cost.

Conservation farming every year is the most economical and most effective farming, says the county chairman. It is like locking the barn door before the horse is stolen. Conservation farming year in and year out will help the land carry its own conservation costs.

FARM DEPRESSION UNNECESSARY, SAYS ANDERSON: Farmers "do not have to go through the wringer again," Clinton P. Anderson told a group in Philadelphia in one of his last speeches as Secretary of Agriculture.

He pointed out, however, that "we must maintain both domestic and foreign policies that will prevent it ... we should not wait for trouble to strike before we take the required action. Under favorable circumstances, farmers can probably look forward to a gradual price decline -- perhaps a decline of a third in the next few years."

American agriculture should benefit directly from the European recovery program in two ways, Mr. Anderson said. (1) During the life of the program, it will help

to provide stable markets and yet allow farmers to shift their pattern of production in definite steps in order to meet more normal postwar demands; and (2) it should help to rebuild a more permanent European market, which has customarily taken 60 to 75 percent of all U. S. agricultural exports.

While food shortages in the world can be expected for a long time to come, Mr. Anderson stated that eventual solution of the world food problem calls for the development and conservation of natural resources, spreading the knowledge of both agricultural and industrial technology, providing for free-flowing world trade, monetary stabilization, and both national and international arrangements for using farm products that would otherwise become surplus.

Regarding the years "after ERP," the former Secretary said: "American agriculture needs the export markets that can be developed through world economic recovery, but by far its largest market, in time of world food crisis as well as in more normal times, is the home market made up of employed people.

"National policy must recognize the necessity of encouraging industrial activity and full employment ... Clearly, then, farm policy and programs must (a) fight delaying actions in periods of price decline so as to maintain balance with industrial prices in fairness to farmers, and (b) provide price stoppers in relation to nonfarm prices... national policy should seek to maintain a floor under consumption and in other ways provide for stable markets."

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May 28, 1948

FOLLOW THROUGH ON CONSERVATION PLANS: Soil is saved and water conserved by conservation practices which farmers carry out and not the ones that never get beyond the planning stage, says chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee. He urges all farmers in the county who are cooperating in the program to follow through and get the best possible results from the conservation practices for which they have signed up.

Mr. _____ explained that only so much money is allocated to the county each year to be used to assist farmers in the county in carrying out conservation practices. The County Agricultural Conservation Committee has the responsibility of using that money to get the most conservation.

When a farmer files with the county committee his intentions to carry out certain conservation practices and the committee tells him how much assistance he may get, that much of the county allocation is set aside for him. If the practices are not carried out, the farmer has tied up that much of the funds which might have been used by some other farmer. The chairman urges farmers who are unable to follow through on practices to let the committee know without delay so the funds can be used by other farmers who need them.

The chairman urges farmers to carry out the needed conservation practices whether or not assistance can be given on all of them. He advises that the committee will do all it can to assist farmers in getting their conservation practices carried out but it cannot go beyond the funds available.

DODD TESTIFIES ON WHEAT AGREEMENT: Export requirements for U. S. wheat for occupied zones and other areas, together with guaranteed sales under the proposed International Wheat Agreement, would call for total annual wheat exports from this country of about 300 million bushels for the next 5 years, N. E. Dodd, Undersecretary of Agriculture recently told a Senate committee. The U. S. annual share of exports under the Agreement is 185 million bushels.

The U. S. now has millions of acres producing wheat for export or for non-food uses, Mr. Dodd pointed out. According to the 1945 Census of Agriculture, more than 1.2 million farms in practically every State are producing wheat. Production during each of the past four seasons has exceeded 1 billion bushels, and current indications point to another large crop in 1948.

From 1910 to 1946, U. S. wheat shipments averaged 131 million bushels, or about 16 percent of annual average production. During individual years of the period, however, shipments varied from over 390 million bushels in 1945-46 to a net import position during the drought years of the mid-thirties. The proposed agreement, it was explained, would exert a significant force in maintaining overseas demand and minimizing the effect of unexpectedly large supplies of wheat for export from other surplus producing countries.

In connection with prices, the Undersecretary said that the Agreement would not set U. S. domestic wheat price levels, nor would it impose any conditions which would interfere with national agricultural and price policies. Maximum and minimum prices fixed under the Agreement would apply only to the wheat covered by the Agreement. Producers would be in position to plan their production in accordance with known markets, however, with resultant greater stability of supplies and less variation in the price level.

While limited supplies of wheat in this country during any year would mean necessary restrictions or prohibitions of shipments in excess of the amounts specified in the Agreement, Mr. Dodd explained that any disadvantage these regulations might cause would be far overbalanced by the assurance of a continued large export business during the life of the Agreement.

The Department of Agriculture, Mr. Dodd said, stands ready to cooperate with the private grain trade in devising such regulations and procedures necessary to carry out the Agreement with the least inconvenience to private enterprise.

MORE ALFALFA SEED NEEDED: Alfalfa growers of the State of North Dakota are being urged by J. E. Kasper, PMA State Chairman, to produce more alfalfa seed this year. He has called attention of growers to the fact that for the last three years growers in the northern States have not reached the goal set for seed production in their States. In 1945 and 1947, for example, they produced less than 2 acres of seed for every 3 acres called for by the goals.

The Chairman also directed attention to the fact that so far this year no plans have been announced to establish support prices for alfalfa seed. Moreover, no export demand is expected to develop. Northern-grown seed will, therefore, go on a market where there is little carryover seed from last year. On the other hand, the seed from the southern States will go on a market where there is a considerable carryover.

PRODUCTION BEST MEASURE OF SOIL LOSSES: Soil losses should be measured in something more than just so many tons of earth washed or blown away, says _____, chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

Soil losses, in a broad sense include all changes that result in decreased productivity for crops and may be grouped under two general heads - physical and chemical. Physical losses usually refer to removal of the soil itself through erosion. Chemical losses include removal of plant food from the soil in crops, through leaching and erosion.

Available nitrogen and phosphorus usually are concentrated in the topsoil. Most of its humus also is in the first few inches of topsoil. This is the soil that is lost in most cases.

Wind erosion carries away the lighter particles such as the tiny roots and decaying leaves and stems of plants. When soil is moved by water the coarser particles settle first - and this is the part of the soil which is least productive.

Some damage has already been done before the soil blows or washes away, says the chairman. Keeping land in a cultivated crop too long breaks down its resistance to erosion. Over-worked land usually is more subject to erosion than land that has been recently plowed out of grass and clover.

MODERATE STOCKING OF THE RANGE PAYS: Livestock men in many parts of the West have found that moderate stocking of their range pays in many ways, says J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the North Dakota PMA Committee. The increased grass resulting from moderate stocking holds the soil from blowing and washing. Many stockmen have found that it produces more feed than either light or heavy stocking.

The chairman cites a 12-year Montana test in which the average weight of calves when weaned on heavily stocked range was a little less than 355 pounds. On a moderately stocked range nearly 380 pounds.

But, said the chairman, one of the difficulties that many range men have is to know what constitutes moderate stocking for a given range. One animal for 40 acres may be heavy stocking on one range and light on another.

One of the measures of moderate stocking that ranchers use in many parts of the country is to have the animals graze off half of the grass produced. If more than half is grazed off, then the stocking is too heavy ... if less, then the stocking is too light. Signs of erosion will often tell whether the range is too heavily stocked. Animals themselves often show by their slow gains and unthrifty condition that they are not getting enough feed.

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June 4, 1948

CROP INSURANCE ACREAGE REPORTS: Producers who have insurance on their crops under the Federal Crop Insurance Program must file a report of the acreage of wheat or flax seeded, according to _____, chairman of the _____ A.C.A. committee. A drive is being made to secure all seeded acreage reports by June 21.

No consideration can be given to adjustment of a reported loss in cases where acreage reports are not on file. It is the responsibility of every insured producer to make sure that a correct report of seeded acreage is filed with the county committee as soon as possible after seeding is completed.

BIG SIGN-UP FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES: Farmers over the State have indicated their intentions to carry out conservation practices under the 1948 Agricultural Conservation Program to the extent of two or three times the amount of money that is available for payments to assist with the practices, according to J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the State PMA Committee. Every county is over subscribed, and County Committees have the job of setting minimum allowances within the limit of the funds assigned to the County for practice payments.

Every producer is urged to carry out all the conservation practices possible, even though sufficient funds are not available to pay for all practices. Producers are also urged to use care and carry out the practices in accordance with the specifications approved in the County Agricultural Conservation Program. The practice specifications are made up by a Technical Committee composed of members from the Production and Marketing Administration, Soil Conservation Service, the Experiment Station, the Extension Service, and the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Labor for North Dakota. The practice specifications are written so as to secure the best conservation job possible with the money that is available. The specifications must be followed in order that the practice may be eligible for payment.

STOCK-WATER DEVELOPMENTS SAVE SOIL: On much of the Western rangeland, the construction of a watering place for cattle or sheep is one of the most important soil and water conservation practices. _____, Chairman of the _____ Agricultural Conservation Program Committee, points out that it does two things.

- (1) It gives greater protection to the vegetative cover to protect and hold the soil and helps to hold the needed moisture on the range.
- (2) It reduces trailing and trampling which increase the erosion hazard.

Dams and ponds also check run-off and resulting erosion. With more watering places, livestock graze the range more evenly. They are not forced to overgraze the area around the watering places and then trail a long distance between water and feed.

And sometimes there are added assets for the rancher. Alton Anderson of Walters, Oklahoma last year constructed a stock water reservoir with the slopes of the dam sodded down to bermuda grass. His water supply is now so dependable that he has a water wagon for sale.

Last summer Mr. Anderson hauled water from Walters -- six miles each way -- for three weeks to supply 35 head of cattle at the very season of the year when he should have been working in the field. His new stock-water pond this year has put him out of the water-hauling business -- permanently.

BRANNAN IS NEW SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE: Charles F. Brannan, who recently took office as Secretary of Agriculture, was born August 23, 1903, in Denver, Colo., where he attended the public schools, was graduated from the University of Denver Law School, and practiced law, specializing in irrigation and mining law.

Mr. Brannan was named as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture in June 1944 after several years with the Farm Security Administration and the Department's Office of the Solicitor. His first government service was as Assistant Regional Attorney for the Resettlement Administration in Denver in 1935. In 1937, he was appointed Regional Attorney for the Department's Office of the Solicitor, also in Denver.

In November 1941, Mr. Brannan was appointed Regional Director of FSA for the States of Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana, with headquarters at Denver; in April 1944, he was named Assistant Administrator, FSA, in Washington.

As Assistant Secretary, Mr. Brannan has been in charge of agricultural policy and program activities of the Department, including the preparation of recommendations for future long-range programs to succeed those in effect before and during the war. He has also headed up the Department's activities in the food and feed conservation program.

Mr. Brannan has served as agricultural advisor to the American Delegation to the United Nations Conference at San Francisco and to the Social and Economic Council of the United Nations.

Until recently, he was part-owner of a cattle and grain ranch in Yuma County, Col.

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June 11, 1948

MANY FARMERS NEED CONSERVATION HELP: All citizens of the country share the responsibility of conserving the Nation's soil and water resources, because many farmers are not able to finance the needed conservation work on their farms, says J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota PMA committee.

Even in 1944, he points out, nearly a third of the Nation's farms each grew less than \$1,000 worth of products. Nearly 60 percent turned out less than \$2,000 worth of products. Nearly three-fourths grew less than \$3,000 worth of products. The operators of these farms took in much less cash than these indicated figures-- and still had to pay their production costs. In 1944, the crops of more than 385,000 farmers failed on 10,297,172 acres. The figures are from the 1945 census.

On a small farm, the Farmers Home Administration estimates a farm family needs about \$1,500 gross farm income (including the value of products that are used at home and the rental value of the house) to meet expenses. This is based on studies made in 1947. This gross farm income might include about \$908 in cash and about \$558 worth of products grown from home use. The \$908 would go to pay farm operating costs of \$476 and cash family living costs of \$432.

A recent survey also shows that many farmers do not carry out conservation practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program because they are not able to bear the financial burden of their share of the cost.

FARM TENANCY DECLINING, SAYS BAE: Tenants operated a little more than a fourth of the Nation's farms in 1947, according to a Bureau of Agricultural Economics survey. The figure of 26.9 percent, representing tenant-operated farms, compares with the 31.7-percent tenancy shown by the 1945 Census of Agriculture. Each year since the peak of 42.4 percent in 1930, the proportion of tenancy has declined. The figures are based on interviews with 15,000 farmers.

The survey also indicates that somewhat less farm land was operated under lease -- 21.6 percent in 1947 compared with the 1945 figure of 22.1 percent. At the same time, the proportion of land operated by part owners increased from 32 to 36 percent, and that operated by full owners and managers declined from 45 to 42 percent.

According to the survey, considerable land is owned by farm operators but is rented to others. In 1947, land was rented to someone else by 14.5 percent of the full-owner operators, 8.9 percent of the part owners, 8.9 percent of the managers, and 2.3 percent of the tenants.

CONSERVATION HELPED SWELL FARM OUTPUT, SAYS KASPER:

Conservation practices undoubtedly helped farmers

boost 1947 food production to a record high, says J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration. The score on 1947 production of food now stands at 41 percent more than during the prewar 1935-39 period; including non-food items, total agricultural output amounted to 34 percent more than prewar. The 1946 crop was 36 percent more.

Use of more farm machines and improved varieties of crops also played important parts in reaching the production total, Mr. Kasper said. But a fertile soil, he emphasized, must always form the basis of all production efforts. If this country is to continue feeding its own people, much less help other nations, widespread adoption of soil-conservation measures is imperative.

Even with tremendous shipments of foods to overseas countries, the Chairman pointed out, U. S. per capita food consumption in 1947 was 16 percent more than before the war. Record per capita food consumption stands at 18 percent more than prewar, reached in 1946.

For the year ahead, the Department of Agriculture indicates, food consumption per capita is expected to be slightly lower than last year but still about 12 percent above prewar. Consumption of most dairy products, poultry, and meat, as well as of sweetpotatoes, fresh fruit, and corn products, will be smaller than in 1947. Consumption of fresh and canned vegetables, potatoes, canned fruit and fruit juices, dried fruits, lard, and margarine is expected to be larger. Not much change from 1947 is expected in consumption of other foods, including wheat and eggs.

Exports of food in 1948 will be lower than the 1947 record, in part because available supplies will be smaller. Food production this year is now forecast at 6 percent less than last year; total agricultural production at 3 percent less.

In spite of improved prospects for European crops this year, however, sizeable imports will again be needed to allow more nearly adequate rations and to restore stocks to reasonable working levels. Nearly one-third of the \$6.1 billion which Congress has authorized for foreign aid measures may be used for the purchase of agricultural commodities in the United States.

CHINA EXPECTS RECORD WHEAT CROP:

China's first official estimate is for a record wheat crop this year amounting to 965 million bushels. High yields have increased the output above the average of 821 million bushels for the early thirties.

Barley production in China is estimated at about 365 million bushels; the largest crop since 1936 and a little higher than average. The oats crop may be 54 million bushels, somewhat below the average of 60 million.

WHERE ARE OUR NEXT MEALS COMING FROM?

The question "where is our next meal coming from" can be seriously asked by rich and poor alike, says J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota PMA committee.

With the exception of seafood, he points out, all our meals come from the land. How good they are and how adequate depends on what farmers do with their soil.

The nation's Agricultural Conservation Program is based on a general recognition that we are faced with a serious problem of keeping the land in condition so that it will continue to turn out adequate meals for today, tomorrow and the years to come.

The Chairman states: "Topsoil that has been eroded and washed out into the ocean will be of little value in helping to keep the meals coming along three times a day, 365 days a year. And we hope we don't have to go through the experience of the Chinese, the people in the hill country of Greece, and those in many other parts of the world before we realize that all our meals do depend on the soil.

"Farmers who till the soil are the custodians of the land. But all of us whether we are on the farm or not depend on the soil for our meals and we all have a responsibility to see to it that our land keeps turning out these meals."

The Agricultural Conservation Program was set up as a cooperative method of conserving the soil, the chairman explains. Each farmer who carried out conservation practices and each consumer who has helped that farmer, is contributing to a program of "meal insurance." Through the ACP Program, erosion is being cut down and land is being kept in condition so that "it can keep turning out food that make up the meals we take so much for granted because most of us haven't had to miss too many."

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